

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 061759Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8660

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 07683

DEPT. FOR EUR/CE

E.O. 11652L GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, GW, US, UK, FR, ACOM

SUBJECT: QUADRIpartite QUADRIGA COMMUNICATIONS NET

1. AT APRIL 29 BONN GROUP MEETING, FRG REP (HENZE)  
STATED THAT THE FRG WISHED TO PROPOSE THE ABOLITION OF  
THE QUADRIGA NET.

2. BY WAY OF BACKGROUND, HE RECALLED THAT THE NET HAD  
BEEN ESTABLISHED IN 1964, USING BRITISH "ALVIS" CYPHER  
EQUIPMENT, TO ESTABLISH A TELETYPE COMMUNICATIONS LINK  
BETWEEN THE FOUR FOREIGN MINISTERS. IN THE FIRST YEARS  
"POLITICAL TEST CONFERENCES" AND TECH-  
NICAL TEST CONFERENCES" WERE HELD REGULARLY. THE LAST  
POLITICAL TEST CONFERENCE WAS HELD IN 1970, HOWEVER, AND  
OF THE TECHNICAL TEST CONFERENCES THAT HAVE BEEN HELD  
SINCE THEN ABOUT 50 PERCENT DID NOT WORK -- OFTEN  
BECAUSE ONE OF THE PARTICIPANTS WAS NOT THERE, AND  
SOMETIMES BECAUSE THE EQUIPMENT WAS OUT OF ORDER.

3. HENZE SAID THE WHOLE PROCEDURE WAS CLUMSY AND NOT  
VERY FAST. IN TIME OF CRISIS IT WOULD NOT BE SATIS-  
FACTORY. THE FRG HAS MEANWHILE ESTABLISHED PERMANENT  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS LINKS WITH ITS EMBASSIES IN  
WASHINGTON, PARIS AND LONDON AND CAN CONTACT THEM WITH-  
OUT MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR SPECIAL LINES, AS IS  
NECESSARY FOR QUADRIGA.

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4. THE FRENCH, BRITISH, AND U.S. REPS AGREED TO REPORT

THE FRG PROPOSAL.

5. REQUEST GUIDANCE. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT THE QUESTION OF QUADRIGA RETENTION WAS DISCUSSED BY THE BONN GROUP IN 1973-74 WHEN ALL SIDES FAVORED MAINTAINING THE NET. WE ASSUME IT IS THE RECENT INSTITUTION BY THE FRG OF PERMANENT COMMUNICATIONS LINKS WITH THE THREE ALLIED CAPITALS WHICH HAS CAUSED THE FRG CHANGE IN POSITION. WE WOULD NOT FAVOR ABOLISHMENT OF QUADRIGA UNLESS ANOTHER EXISTING SYSTEM COULD PROVIDE AT LEAST COMPARABLE SERVICE.

HILLENBRAND

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